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IMPROVEMENTS FOR CONTAINERS OF SINGLE DOSES OF PRODUCT

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The present invention concerns a container for single doses of products, in the form of a bag obtained from two symmetrical sheets laminated and joined at their edges so as to define together a closed pouch or bag which receives the product doses; the latter can be a liquid product, a powder, a paste, granules or any solid.

Such bags are used advantageously for packaging numerous products, particularly cleaning or toiletry products; these products can thus be easily preserved, being isolated and separated from the outside, as well as sheltered from sources of contamination; furthermore, each unit corresponds to one dose, so that the product can be correctly used, strictly in accordance with the quantity necessary for each use.

Such doses in bag form are frequently produced from two impermeable sheets, each sheet being itself produced from a complex of plastic films. These dose bags are also used extensively in the distribution of free samples given to potential clients so that they can assess or become acquainted with the properties of the product thus presented and possibly continue using it.

The form of these single-dose bags is necessarily small since they are provided for containing a limited quantity corresponding to a single use, so that when the dose bag is used as a sample, it is observed that the area provided for the presentation of the product, its indications, possible contraindications, properties, advantages, and, above all, the method of use, is extremely limited, and it is difficult to accommodate the whole substance of the message intended for the new user, who, by definition, is assumed to be unfamiliar with the product, and therefore therefore [sic; therefore needs to] be completely informed concerning its use. Furthermore, information crowded on a limited support space is not very attractive, and the message therefore risks remaining ignored, which greatly handicaps the advertising impact of the sample and considerably devalues the advantage for the producer.

It is therefore necessary to associate the dose bag with a broader support to which it will be joined; but a sufficiently rigid support is necessary, which requires the use of a length of cardboard, resulting in an increase in cost, complicated processing and handling expenses, not to mention the risk of accidental separation of the dose bag from its support.

The present invention remedies these disadvantages and makes it possible to produce a bag containing a single dose of product associated with a surface, particularly in the form of a message support enabling one to considerably expand the value and possibilities of utilization of this product.

To this end, the invention concerns a so-called "dose bag" container of the type made up of two sheets connected together by bonding lines preferably along the edges of the sheets, the regions inside the bonding lines remaining free, thus forming between them a closed pouch forming the bag which receives a dose of contained product, characterized by the fact that at least one of the two sheets is extended on at least one edge beyond the line of connection with the other sheet, this extension forming a neutral flap integral with the bag.

Preferably, the two sheets are made up of two twin cut pieces, both having a marginal side region with respect to the bag, which are connected together from one sheet to the other, forming a neutral side flap integral with the bag.

Preferably, the side region with respect to the bag is separated from the bag by an attenuated line or precut line allowing easy separation of the flap with respect to the bag.

According to a particular embodiment of the invention, the dose bag is made up of two twin sheets connected together by a number of connection lines, for example, heat fusing lines, the lines defining closed pouches, each constituting an individual bag containing a single dose of a product, the bags being separated at an attenuated line or precut line following a median axis along the connection lines, allowing separation of the individual bags, each of the two twin sheets having a region along which the two sheets are laminated to one another at least along the edges of said region, this neutral region constituting a flap integral with all of the bags.

For example, the neutral region is arranged between two bags from which it is separated by an attenuated line or precut line, allowing easy separation of said bags from the central flap.

Preferably, the neutral flap associated with the bag or with the set of bags, and coming from the same set of two twin sheets, contains written material.

Other characteristics and advantages of the invention will emerge further from the following description given in connection with a particular embodiment presented as a non-limiting example with reference to the appended drawings.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a dose bag according to the invention.

Figure 2 is a cross section through the bag of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a plan view of a first variant.

Figure 4 is a plan view of a second variant.

Figure 5 is a plan view of a third variant.

Figure 6 is a plan view of a fourth variant.

Figures 8 and 9 show perspective views of a final variant.

According to Figures 1 and 2, it is seen that the dose bag is composed of two pouches, each forming a bag, and which are obtained in a known manner by joining two twin sheets face to face. The two sheets 1 and 2 are joined along connection lines 3, 4 which run along certain edges of the twin sheets, forming two identical and neighboring bags in a known manner. The bags can be easily separated by precut line 5 which follows a median axis between connection lines 3 and 4 near their path.

In a novel manner, according to the invention, the sheets forming the dose bags are extended beyond the part used for forming the bags and have marginal region 6 for sheet 1 and 7 for sheet 2; these two marginal regions are integral from one sheet to the other and together form side flap 10 associated with the pair of bags 8 and 9, the flap is separated from neighboring bag 9 by a precut line allowing its separation.

This flap can thus be of any appropriate size, and it is provided for receiving any inscription: advertising or marketing data, instructions for use, information notes, and generally any appropriate message.

Figures 3 to 8 show different embodiment variants in which the dose bags receive various forms and arrangements with respect to the flap, which can be in a marginal or central position; the bags can contain any appropriate product in liquid, paste or solid form. The products can be for successive use or for complementary use, intended for being combined at the time of use. The bags can also contain cellulose towels impregnated with active products, such as a toilet water, stain remover, cleaning product, make-up remover, etc...

The flap, according to the example of Figure 7, can itself be detachable in order to constitute a price-reduction coupon for a subsequent purchase.

Figures 8 and 9 show a variant in which flap 10' has a cutout forming window 11 allowing the whole to be fitted onto a support.

For example, in this case, the support according to Figure 9 can be bottle 12 of a different product distributed by the same manufacturer. The flap is then trapped by cap 13 over which it is fitted.

The sheets used to realize the bag associated with a side flap according to the invention are of any known type used for forming and processing dose bags of this type; one will advantageously use, for example, a complex of a sheet of aluminum with one or more heat fusible plastic films on at least one side.

Figures 10, 11, and 12 show refinements of the invention.

Figure 10 shows a dose bag unit associated with a side flap, the whole being capable of constituting a document which can be mailed.

To this end, the two sheets are connected as described in the preceding, forming dose bag 14 on the left part of the figure, defined by bonding lines 15, 15', 16. 16', which allow the production of the central pouch, forming bag 14 containing a product, for example, a product in the liquid or paste form and capable of containing a sample.

Side flap 17 is formed by the same cut out pieces of the two assembled sheets which extend the walls of the sheets forming bag 14; and this flap 17 is therefore obtained by joining the two sheets together at least at their edges and along heat fusing lines 18, 18' 18"; the sheets could be joined by heat fusing or other means and over their entire surface; however, for reasons of economy, it is sufficient to joint the two edges in order to form a flat neutral flap.

This flap can receive advertising or informational inscriptions 19; it can receive label 20 containing the address at the place provided by law; but the address could also be carried by any suitable means in a special frame provided on flap 17.

Finally, flap 17 will carry postage means 21 in the form of stamps (postage stamps, postage meter tapes, or direct passage to the postage meter.

This document can be used in view of its transport by postal means within the scope of the regulations in effect and after obtaining approval by the competent authorities.

It is seen that this application of the invention allows for considerable expansion of the possibilities of distribution of products to clientele; in effect, no handling becomes necessary, and the product as it leaves the machine, produced according to the invention, can be dispatched immediately, simply having received the label and the postage means according to regulations, which avoids handling, storage, etc...

This application of the invention therefore expands not only the distribution of advertising samples but also the transport of small, very compact products that can be introduced into the pouch or bag 14.

Figure 11 also shows a variant in which flap 22 occupies a large area and which in this case is twice the area reserved for the dose bag.

Three juxtaposed bags 23, 23', 23" bags are produced in this case, which can possibly be separated by precut lines.

These flaps are connected along their edges coming into alignment 24 with flap 22; the latter is produced in a known manner and as described in the preceding. The same two sheets which are used for the production of dose bags 23, 23', 23" and which are extended towards the top are joined together at least at their edges; this flap 22 itself has median folding line 25 defining two folds 26, 26' which can be folded down around bags 23, 23', 23", ensuring their protection from the outside; as seen in Figure 2, these two folded flaps contain bags 23, 23' and 23" between them, the whole thus forming a kit; based on this scheme, it is possible to produce a first aid kit or a kit containing drug products, or a travel bag containing sun products, or specific cleaning products, etc...

Claims

1. "Dose bag" container of the type made up of two sheets connected together by bonding lines preferably along to the edges of the sheets, the regions inside the bonding lines remaining free, thus forming between them a closed pouch forming the bag which receives a dose of contained product, characterized by the fact that at least one of the two sheets is extended on at least one edge beyond the line of connection with the other sheet, this extension forming a neutral flap integral with the bag.

2. Container according to Claim 1, characterized by the fact that the two sheets are made up of two twin cut pieces, both having a marginal side region with respect to the bag, which are joined together from one sheet to the other, forming a neutral side flap integral with the bag.

3. Container according to either of Claims 1 and 2, characterized by the fact that the side region with respect to the bag is separated from the bag by an attenuated line or precut line allowing easy separation of the flap with respect to the bag.

4. Container according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized by the fact that the dose bag is made up of two twin sheets connected together by a number of connection lines, for example, heat fusing lines, the lines defining closed pouches, each constituting an individual bag containing one dose of a product, the bags being separated by an attenuated line or precut line following a median axis along the connection lines, allowing separation of the individual bags, and each of the two twin sheets having a region along which the two sheets are laminated to one another according to the whole surface of said region, this neutral region constituting a flap integral with assembly of bags.

5. Container according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized by the fact that the neutral region is arranged between two bags from which it is separated by an attenuated line or precut line, allowing easy separation of said bags from the central flap.

6. Container according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized by the fact that the neutral flap associated with the bag or with the set of bags, and coming from the same set of two twin sheets, contains an inscription.

7. Container according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized by the fact that the flap constitutes a support for postage means in view of sending the assembly by postal means, the flap also having the indication of the address of the recipient.

8. Container according to Claim 7 and which can be sent by postal means, characterized by the fact that the assembly formed by the bag and its side flap has an elongated quadrangular shape, the bag being positioned marginally at one end of the rectangle and on the left side on the side constituting the front side of the document, this side being capable of receiving, on the right part, the addresses of the recipient and the postage means.

9. Container according to one of Claims 1 to 8 above, characterized by the fact that it comprises a number of pouches forming dose bags, formed from the joining of two sheets connected together along bonding lines, particularly heat fusing lines, the set of bags being associated, along their edge in alignment, with a side flap formed from the same sheets constituting the walls of the bags and forming the extension of these sheets; the sheets being integral at least along the edge of the flap; the flap being capable of forming, by folding around the bags, an envelope for protection of said bags.

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Fig:1

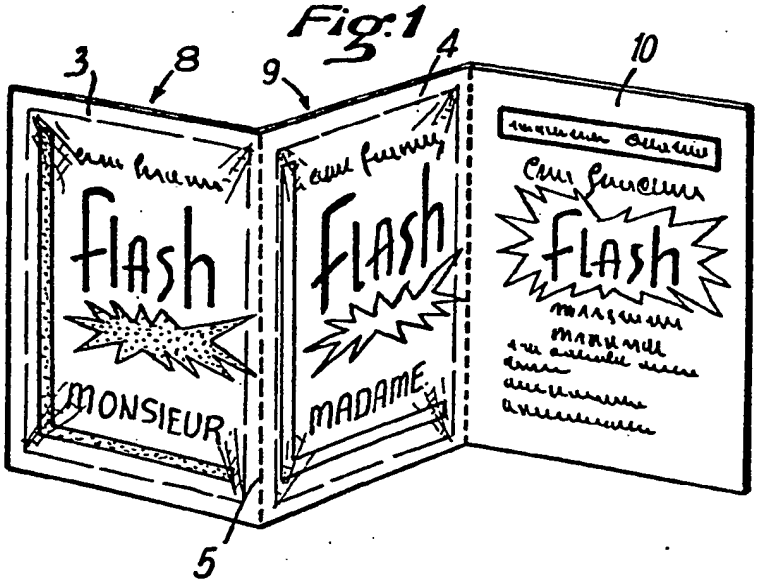

Fig:2

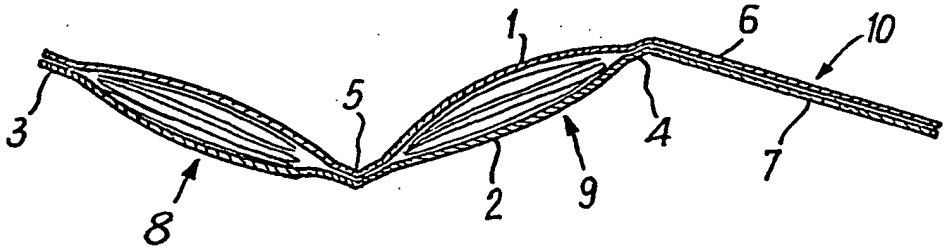

Fig:3

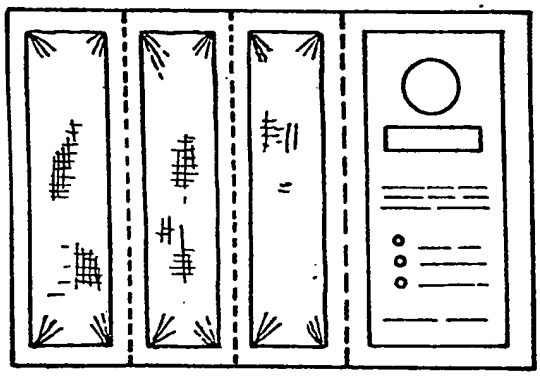

Fig:4

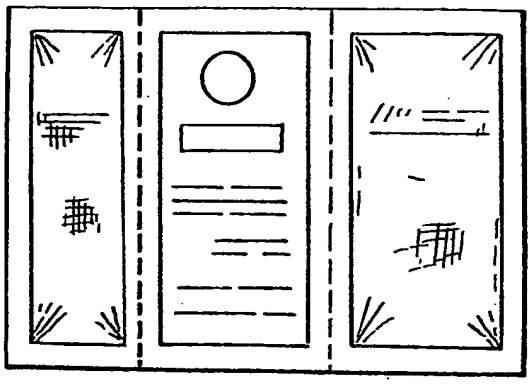

Fig:5

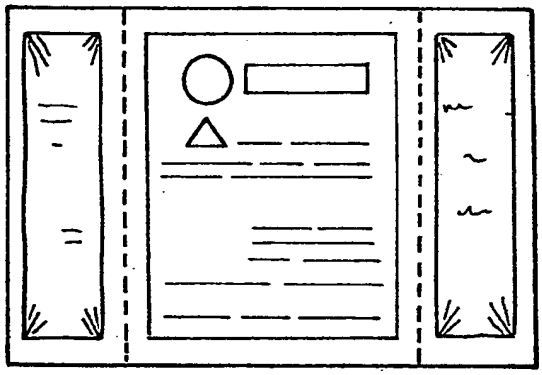

Fig:6

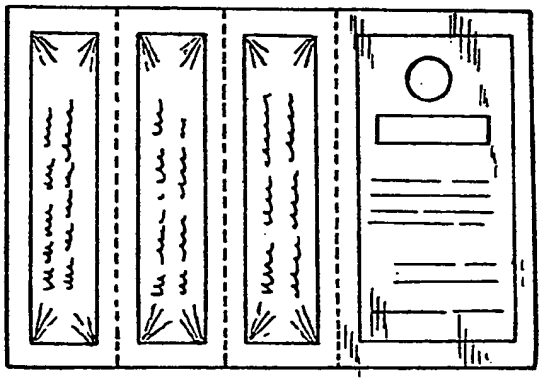

Fig:7

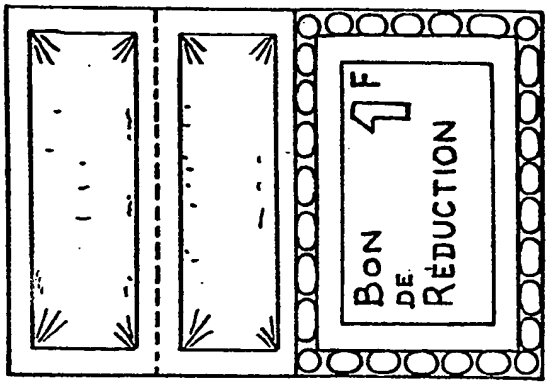

Fig:8

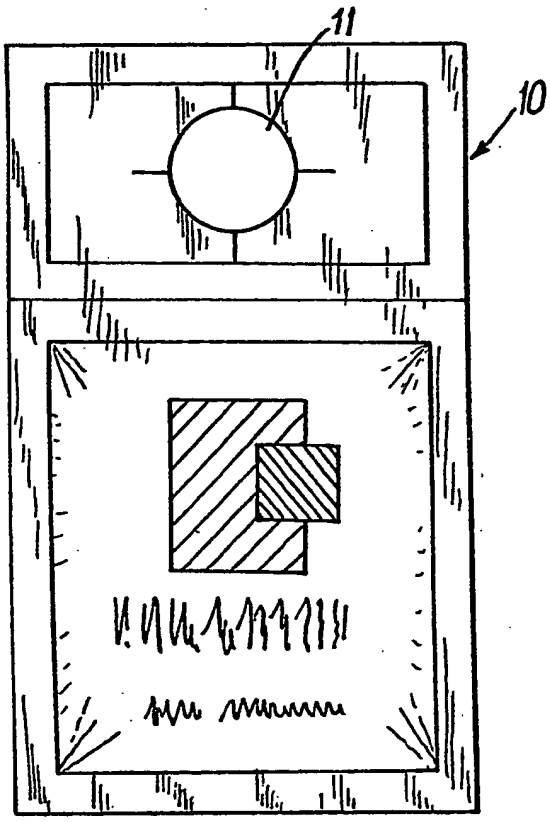

Fig:9

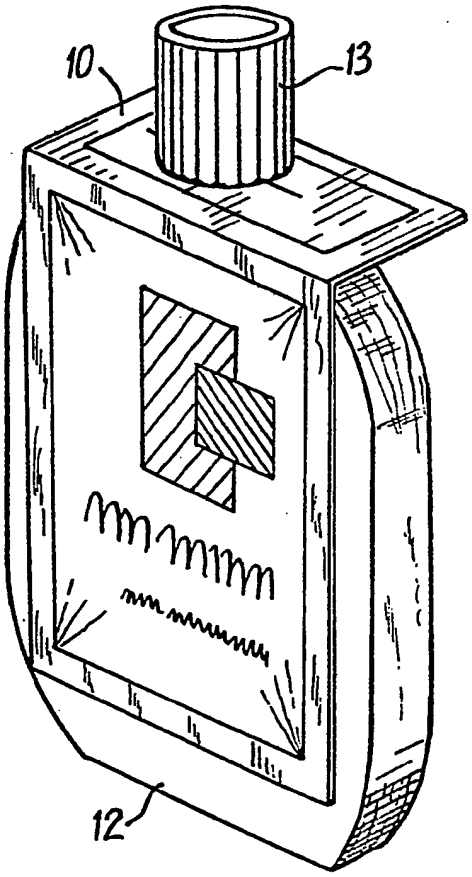

Fig:10

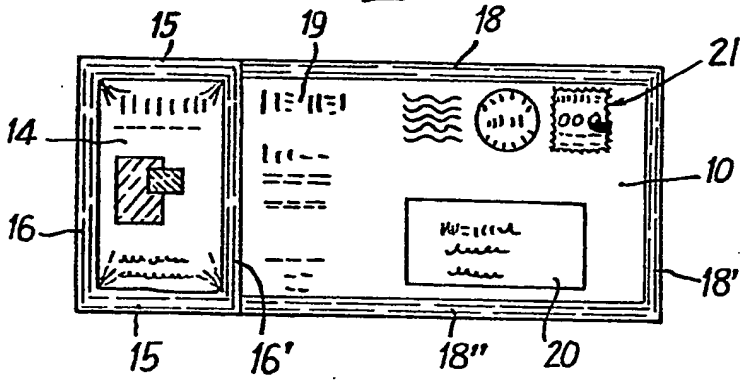

Fig:11

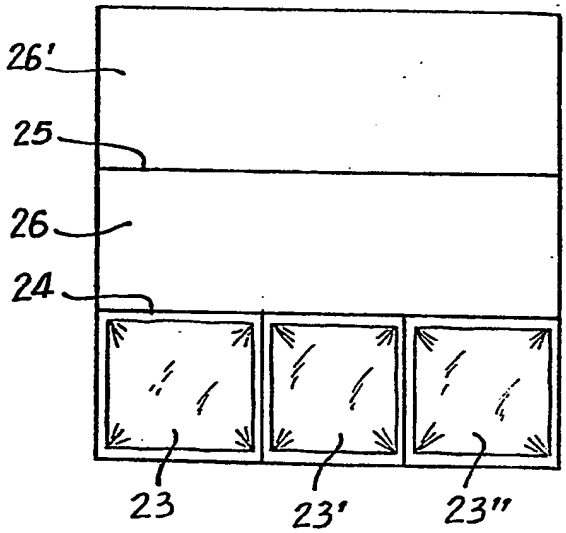

Fig:12